

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 02669 161858Z

44

ACTION INT-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /076 W

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R 151158Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6040

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

CINCPAC REP GUAM/TTPI

COMTWELVE SFRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 2669

E. O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, TQ, IR, JA

SUB: PALAU SUPERPORT

REF: STATE 56378

1. EMBOFF BROACHED PROBLEM DESCRIBED REFTTEL WITH DR. PARVIZ MINA, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, NATIONAL IRANIAN OIL CO. (NIOC) ON MARCH 10. MINA MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

(A) AS FAR AS HE IS CONCERNED, AS YET THERE IS NO PROJECT. THERE IS A FEASIBILITY STUDY THAT WILL TAKE ABOUT ANOTHER YEAR TO COMPLETE. NIOC IS NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE STUDY AND WILL NOT DECIDE UNTIL STUDY IS COMPLETED WHETHER IT WILL PARTICIPATE AND IF SO, IN WHAT WAY. MINA EMPHASIZED THAT MARCH 15 MEETING MERELY "TECHNICAL" AND SAID HE DID NOT INTEND TO PARTICIPATE. HE EXPRESSED SOME DOUBT AND IRRITATION AS TO REASON FOR PALAUAN SENATORS' ADTTENDANCE.

(B) HE HAS ALWAYS EMPHASIZED TO ALL PARTICIPANTS THAT NIOC

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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 02669 161858Z

PARTICIPATION DEPENDS NOT ONLY ON RESULTS OF ECONOMIC/TECHNICAL

FEASIBILITY STUDY, BUT ON SITE'S ENJOYING FIRM SECURITY. HE ADDED THAT SEPARATIST POLITICS, IN HIS OPINION (THOUGH THIS IS NOT HIS FIELD), DEFINITELY WOULD CALL INTO QUESTION THE SECURITY OF THE SITE. HE EXPRESSED GREAT RELUCTANCE, HOWEVER, TO INITIATE ANY MENTION OF SEPARATISM ISSUE, HOWEVER, LEST PALAUANS INFER THAT THERE HAD BEEN USG "PRESSURE" OF SOME SORT. EMBOFF WAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER DEPT. WANTS USG APPROACH TO REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL (FROM PALAUANS) OR NOT.

2. WE HAVE ALWAYS UNDERSTOOD THAT A CENTRAL IDEA OF PANERO'S IS THAT IF SUPERPORT IS TO BE BUILT, IT "MUST BE INSIDE US SECURITY PERIMETER," AND ARE CONFIDENT THAT GOI SHARES THIS VIEW. WE ARE SOMEWHAT UNCERTAIN AS TO RELATION BETWEEN SUPERPORT AND SEPARATISM: DO PALAUANS FEEL SUPERPORT WILL ENABLE THEM TO BE INDEPENDENT, OR DO THEY OBJECT TO SUPERPORT AND FEAR OUTSIDERS MAY IMPOSE IT? (DR. MINA ASKED QUESTION ALONG THIS LINE.) MIKLOS

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